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# Mahoning County Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Network

Q U A R T E R L Y N E W S L E T T E R

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Mahoning County Commissioner McNally and others listen to panelists.

## Bus Tour Deemed Success

For the second time in three years, the Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Network used a unique approach to educating key stakeholders about the local services delivery system...**a chartered bus**. On Friday June 3rd, 2005 over 35 individuals boarded a bus in front of the Mahoning County Courthouse for scheduled stops at the Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic on Rush Boulevard then Meridian Services Inc. on Chalmers Avenue and concluding with a visit to the Addiction Programs of Mahoning County's Donofrio Men's Center on McGuffey Road.

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## Task Force Takes Drug Dealers... and Local Officials... to Task

**Note:** This is part one in a series of interviews with members of the Drug Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of officers from numerous township and municipal police departments, as well as the prosecutors office. Their purpose is to remove drug dealers from our Community. They also work with state and federal law enforcement officials and organizations to accomplish this goal. (The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of the ADAS Board, our Providers or sponsors.)

Commander of the Drug Task Force, Sgt. Bob Magnusson (Sgt. M), and Supervisor of the Drug Unit, Officer Bob Patton (BP), sat down with the ADAS Board Executive Director David L. Schaffer (D. Schaffer) to talk frankly about the role of law enforcement in reducing drug related crime in the Mahoning Valley.

**D. Schaffer:** "What are the most dangerous aspects of your job?"

**Sgt. M:** "Once in a while our guys will assume a role where they are actually making a purchase of drugs themselves. We try to minimize that because it is extremely dangerous. And then of course after they're done with a case then we have to make entry into the house. Bob and I were on one (a case) a couple months ago where, I don't want to get too deep into it, but the individual was tipped off that we were coming. And so what we thought it would be a nice easy deal, which it turned out to be, because he was still sleeping. But could have been, you know, really bad, knowing that the police are coming to get you and we only brought four officers that time. Other times we go with a whole entry team which we have access through from our Task Force through the tactical side. We just did one two weeks ago that resisted on entry, you know, sometimes they do. Most of the time they are cooperative when we enter. We try to work together in little.... teams. There's always at least three guys out together keeping an eye on each other, so that minimizes the danger. They wear body armor and carry extra guns."

**BP:** "You know what, I would just add that probably the danger that gets most often overlooked, certainly as Bob alluded to, are the physical dangers that go along with being a police officer at any level. On our level the fact that you're doing undercover work and you're sending informants in to do undercover buys, increases the fact that the danger for somebody if something goes wrong, because we're all in plain clothes and we're going to have to go in and rescue somebody on short notice with a limited amount of manpower. But I think probably the biggest danger that faces most of the people that work narcotics is the everyday stress and anxiety that goes along with this job. You know like when you're dealing with long term cases and the guys are very dedicated and they take what they do very seriously and to heart and because of that I think you put an undue amount of stress on yourself and it can really negatively affect you and you have to be



Officer Bob Patton and Sgt. Bob Magnusson

very careful on how you deal with that."

**Sgt. M:** "...I just read a study where the average police officer through his occupation or her occupation loses 15 years off their life expectancy. And I gotta say it's probably true about the stress and about worrying about finances (for the unit) and keeping things running and at the same time, you know, the other parts of the job."

**D. Schaffer:** "What has changed in the last ten to fifteen years in terms of the types of drugs or substances that are being abused?"

**Sgt. M:** "Well my last dabbling in drug work was 20 some years ago. Back then it was LSD, PCP, marijuana, so coming back into this was kind of a culture shock to me. Hearing about what has been going on has been shocking to me, the amount of heroin, of course we knew crack, but heroin and the OxyContin were the big eye openers for me. And as it goes all over the communities and these places (suburban areas) that think it's not affecting them, like the southern part of the County or the western part of the County, that's not true - its everywhere - we go everywhere...."

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### MVLETF Statistics for 2004

The activity of the MVLETF for the year 2004 was as follows:

- 187 new cases were initiated yielding a total of 310 arrests.
- 102 search warrants were executed

The following seizures were conducted during 2004:

- Crack Cocaine: 1,833 grams
- Powdered Cocaine: 4,556 grams
- Marijuana: 66,039 grams
- Heroin: 559 grams
- Oxycontin: 3,780 dosage units
- Firearms: 34
- Money: \$82,280
- House: 1 for \$50,000



## Message from Director

We are pleased to present the introductory edition of the Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Network’s Quarterly Newsletter.

Substance abuse is a complicated issue when examined from any angle. Our intent is to present our readers with meaningful information including interviews with individuals and organizations that are experiencing the triumphs and challenges associated with their role in addressing alcohol and drug related problems in Mahoning County. In many

ways, these problems are still largely wrapped in secrecy and stigma for families and individuals.

Our hope is to begin an education process with our readers by providing the most up to date information and candid discussions that include a solution oriented focus. Our ultimate goal is to demonstrate the ways we can reduce substance abuse related problems by working more closely together with our community partners.

The other objective of this newsletter is to showcase some of the programs, employees and volunteers that make up the treatment and prevention network in Mahoning County. Which is one of the most proactive and effective networks of care in the State of Ohio.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we welcome your feedback. Please visit our website for a downloadable version of the newsletter or to provide us with your comments. If you have any questions about services please call the toll-free hotline, anytime of the day or night at 1-888-317-2169.

David L. Schaffer  
Executive Director

## Task Force

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**B.P.:** “The trend in the last probably three years for us at least is the huge amount of young people that are using and I think it starts there, you know, they’ve seen it on TV or heard about it through the media where heroin kinda got glamorized a little bit with the models several years ago that they were doing a lot of stories about the New York models and how there was a big heroin problem in New York and the East Coast. And I think it’s reached us, it’s taken a couple of years, but it’s reached us. And where the dramatic impact is in this community is the fact that our young people, primarily suburbanite, are the people who are abusing the heroin and that it is the fastest growing substance abuse group in Mahoning County as far as I’m concerned, it’s people who are in the age bracket of 17 to 25 years of age. They’re suburbanites who start off using pharmaceuticals most and the most abused which is OxyContin and the next thing they know they are being turned onto heroin. And we have a whole new set of heroin junkies, that’s just unbelievable. Well the gateway drug, you know, it’s always been marijuana, which is far different than the marijuana of my days, and then like Bob (Sgt. M) said the Oxy’s, and this is from interviews with these people, you know, when we arrest them. We interview them and ask them so we learn, and that’s typically what you hear, and then they’ve tried heroin.”

**D. Schaffer:** “Are there any conditions that exist in Mahoning County that you think distinguish us from other counties? You two spend a lot of time around the state so are there circumstances that distinguish us from other urban communities that have economic problems in terms of the drug trade?”

*“And where the dramatic impact is in this community is the fact that our young people, primarily suburbanite, are the people who are abusing the heroin and that it is the fastest growing substance abuse group in Mahoning County as far as I’m concerned.”*

**B. P.:** “Not really I think the level of violence is far less in other places.”

**D. Schaffer:** “So violence...”

**B.P.:** “Yes. As far as they have the same problems, the same kinds of drugs. You’re talking about the same kind of drugs, same kind of layout, same kind of everything, it’s coming in from the same places. But when we’re at meetings they go, ‘Oh, you’re from Youngstown’.... I’ll stick my foot in my mouth but I believe you’ve gotta call it the way it is, the reality of Youngstown, Mahoning County in particular is this, not so much in Youngstown, I think it’s just a Mahoning County thing. Is that and I don’t know if this is just an offshoot of having a corrupt, some corrupt individuals in government, you know, we can look back to the prosecutors and judges that have been arrested here, but I think unlike anyplace else in the State of Ohio, our defense attorneys are treated far, far too, leniently by the courts in terms of letting cases linger on. I think we give them far more latitude than other counties in the State of Ohio in terms of discovery and I think as far as sentencing goes and this is not just in the county, it’s in the city, I think that, you know, we have to, as a law enforcement community, meaning the police, the prosecutors and the judges, have to take a more aggressive approach to combating the problem. Where we do cases that we’re looking at people

who are on probation for three or four times. Or we look at people and I laugh all the time because I was part of the ADAS Board when drug court was being implemented. Who are drug dealers, who are trafficking on an everyday basis and who also apply for drug court and get in the drug court. And then walk away with nothing, I think its just, it’s baloney, and I think that we as a law enforcement community from the bottom to the top have to be held accountable and have to say, we need to look at ourselves and how we’re doing things.

I’m a firm believer in rehabilitation and giving somebody the chance to clean up their life and give them a break, but at the same time while you’re looking at somebody and recidivism rate is just there, time and time again because they’re not being punished. And, you know, drugs and violence and weapons go hand in hand. For example the guy they found in the house on Jacobs Road two days ago. We just did a raid there within the last 30 days. And there’s a dead body in a house that they tried to burn up and the guy’s been shot about 4 times with a shotgun, including in the head. So to me I think, you know, if we are going to change the attitude of the community, we have to change the attitude of the law enforcement community first to be more proactive and more aggressive in the way we prosecute, handle, and finally sentence criminals in this community.”

**D. Schaffer:** “Well, that’s interesting because research tells us that if you have community norms that are favorable to drug abuse, you’re gonna have more drug abuse and that is what I hear you saying. We as a government could do a better job in terms of making sure that there is uniform sentencing, faster adjudications and that court proceedings have a lot to do with establishing that norm.”

**B.P.:** “People outside of our area that are in law enforcement, and you can talk to the FBI ... but we have FBI agents stationed here, they travel all over, all these guys travel, they say when they come in they can’t believe the way we do business in Mahoning County. It’s different than anywhere else. My brother’s a cop in Florida, I know cops all over the country. And they read about us and they just can’t believe the things that have gone on. And so now we’ve got to be up to at least 90, it was 70, so it’s got to be up to at least 90 judges, police officers, attorneys in the last, uh, you know, 8 to 10 years that were working in cahoots, letting murderers walk, and major drug dealers which they, you know, go hand in hand. And then, now we’re gonna start cracking down on them.

And one of the things that we’ve talked to the prosecutor about recently is like the felony fives and to suburban police departments that’s a big deal. And there are some individuals that we would recommend against going to drug court. These are future, they’re already dealers and they’re going to be our future predators. You know how you just look at and deal with them and pick them out. I’d rather them not go to drug court.

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# The Youngstown Afterschool Alliance Provides Alternatives to “Hanging Out” for Kids.

According to the most recent Pride\* survey, besides weekends, afterschool and weeknights are the most popular times for children to use and experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Furthermore, adults engaged in substance abuse treatment services at agencies in Mahoning County frequently report experimenting with drugs at ages 12 to 14.

The Youngstown Afterschool Alliance is an innovative program aimed at providing a positive alternative to children at this high risk time during the school year. It also targets an age group that is at very high risk of exposure to drugs. Angie Cameron, Project Director of the Youngstown Afterschool Alliance (YAA), recently spoke with us about the program which targets this high risk population. *(The views expressed in this article are not necessarily the views of the ADAS Board, our Providers or sponsors.)*

**D. Schaffer:** “So tell us a little bit about your program.”



**A. Cameron:** “Well my program is with middle school students grades 5 through 8 and roughly 10 to 14 years old and through the middle schools here in Youngstown City

Schools at Hayes, Hillman and East Middle Schools. We focus on academics, where they go through some reading and math tutoring to help them make sure that their fundamentals are there. They receive a meal or snack every night and then we have some recreational programming from physical recreation, swimming, basketball, karate to arts and dance and alcohol drug and tobacco prevention. All sorts of different activities that come in from the community and provide these services to the students.”

**D. Schaffer:** “Do you have programs at each school or is it at one site?”

**A. Cameron:** “No, programs at each school. There are three sites running Monday through Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It’s just during the school year, October to May. This year we ended a little bit early. How it got started was it was when Hagstrom House closed on the North Side of Youngstown, Hayes Middle School and United Way came together. United Way wanted to do something so the children had somewhere to go after school. And, so then they went to Hayes Middle School and said, you know, ‘What can we do to help?’ And through everybody getting together, we created an advisory board. And on that advisory board is John Maluso from the Board of Education, Al Madasy, Ed Hume, Gibby James, they all kind of came together with United Way. The Boys and Girls Club on the Northside didn’t work out for one reason or another and John Maluso said, ‘Well, let’s use one of the schools,’ and we started the Afterschool Alliance and we used Hayes on the North Side. And the funds that came from Hayes, came from the school district, came from United Way, Youngstown Playground Association, came from Job and Family Services and a couple of other funders. We then

for about 4 months decided that hey we were a success. And we looked at attendance, suspensions, expulsion rate, and grades. How they fluctuated during the day. And they all went up, expulsions and suspensions went down. We decided to do a full year. Those funders came together again and supported us for a full year. During that full year the opportunity came for a 21st Century Grant. Because the Youngstown Afterschool Alliance is not a 501(c)3 organization yet, the school district is the fiscal agent for the 21st Century Grant that we received last July in conjunction with the Special Projects Office of the Mahoning County Commissioners office. So when we did that we were able to expand to the three schools and that’s why we have the three sites today.”

**D. Schaffer:** “What would these kids normally be doing before the school alliance existed?”

**A. Cameron:** “They were just kind of hanging out, getting into trouble, there were some juvenile delinquency issues. You know, they were just going home watching TV, their homework really wasn’t getting accomplished, and they were just there.”

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*“My philosophy with my children at home and with any student that I’ve ever worked with from six weeks old on up to 8th grade, is you have to be involved, and I know that’s not easy all the time, but if you just show a little bit of respect towards the kids, you get so much respect in return.”*

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**D. Schaffer:** “Do you set aside time specifically for them to complete school work during the program?”

**A. Cameron:** “During the pilot program we did and we found that, you know, usually they left it somewhere, or you know, ‘I don’t have any homework,’ or ‘It’s in my locker.’ We have a no locker policy, because we didn’t want vandalism to happen during off school hours. So we had that no locker policy, so we decided as we went on and got more experience under our belt that to have a curriculum, especially with the 21st Century Grant being so focused on the reading and the math that we could have this curriculum and say, ‘Okay, this is where we are, this is where the student is, this is what they need to be learning with the Ohio Academic Concept standards,’ this is the level that they should be doing. And with the tools that the district provided along with the Ohio Academic Standards and some of the after school curriculum that the district had purchased, we were able to make sure that they have the reading and the math accomplished. So, we don’t necessarily do home work per se, but we do do academic concepts to help reinforce what the students are doing.”

**D. Schaffer:** “How do you engage families in this program? How do they know it’s even available to their children?”

**A. Cameron:** “Well we have parent meetings. So that when information is sent home with the students and the buzz starts going around and the kids come home and start talking about it. We have meetings and the parents come to learn about what the program is and how to enroll their student. We also have what we call family literacy events. That’s basically celebrations of what the students do over the course of the 10 week session. So, the last one that we had at the end of the year was at Hillman, the parents came and we had all sorts of different providers including karate. Actually there was a local karate tournament, and he took 10 kids, 5 from Hillman and 5 from Hayes and they were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in different divisions and they got trophies so they did a karate demonstration. There’s a group called the Investigators which is a hands on science, they, the students took pictures with video cameras and digital cameras and they made a DVD of some of the experiments that they did over the course of the 10 weeks. Along with the “I Build” class and they showed these DVD’s of what they did in class. The investigators did some experiments with pop buckets and Alka Seltzer- it’s just a showcase to show the parents just exactly what their students are learning. And we also have an open door policy that if this parents want to come in, they can pop in and kinda hang out for the night and see what’s going on.”

**D. Schaffer:** “So this is available to any child in that age group that is enrolled at a particular school. There’s no financial eligibility criteria?”

**A. Cameron:** “There is no financial eligibility, there’s no cost to the family. There is a size limit; we do have ratios that we need to keep, adult to student ratios, so we do have a cap. Unfortunately right now there is a waiting list.”

**D. Schaffer:** “What message do you have for parents?”

**A. Cameron:** “My philosophy with my children at home and with any student that I’ve ever worked with from six weeks old on up to 8th grade is you have to be involved, and I know that’s not easy all the time, but if you just show a little bit of respect towards the kids, you get so much respect in return. It’s okay to set the limits but you have to follow through with those limits. And for parents who want to participate in the program, um, and can’t with their students, I just say, ‘You know take one day a week and devote it to your child and you’ll earn their respect tenfold.’ And every little chance that you can just give them that little bit. And you’ll be surprised at the amount of difference that you can make.”

For further information on the program please contact Angie Cameron at (330) 744-8577.

The Pride (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) Survey is one of the Nations’ foremost surveys on drug abuse and adolescent delinquent behaviors. The ADAS Board will be receiving the 2004 survey results sometime in the summer. For a copy of the survey results please contact the ADAS Board at 330.743.9509 or visit our website where they will be posted when available at [www.mcadasb.com](http://www.mcadasb.com).



Bus Tour
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During the tour, riders were provided with program overviews of the Mahoning County TASC agency, the Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program and Prevention Partners Plus.

The ADAS Network Public Relations Committee organized the event which took place from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and concluded with a picnic style luncheon and panel discussion at the Museum of Labor and Industry.

The event started in the Mahoning County Commissioners hearing room for an informational overview of the Mahoning County Drug Courts facilitated by Raymond Butler, Chair of the ADAS Board Public Relations Committee. The overview was provided by the Executive Director of Mahoning County TASC, Andrea Glass and two case managers, Cindy Kruzel and Donna Adams. Ray Tarasuck, Assistant Prosecutor for both the Felony and Misdemeanor Drug Court followed with an overview on the judicial processes used for engaging persons in drug court. Patrick Sylvester of the Adult Parole Authority followed with information on the importance of drug court in relation to the State of Ohio's role in the program. Melissa Masterson of Community Corrections Association, discussed CCA's role in providing assessment and residential services on behalf of the felony drug court program. Robert Hackett of Addiction Programs of Mahoning County discussed the importance of recovery and stressed the importance of investing in recovery because it works.

Members were then escorted to Judge Durkin's Courtroom to observe a felony drug court status hearing and to observe someone pleading into drug court.

Honorable F. Theresa Dellick joined Jerry Carter, Darryl Alexander, Andrea Glass, Tom Vasveri, Larry Moliterno and David Schaffer for a panel discussion on issues confronting the treatment system in Mahoning County. Mahoning County Commissioner John McNally and Judge Gene Donofrio both voiced their support



Raymond Butler, Chair of the ADAS Board Public Relations Committee

All involved voiced their concern over the number of individuals and families that are currently in need of treatment intervention and the limited ability we have to serve them due to budget constraints.

of the system and acknowledged the meaningful amount of collaboration that currently exists in the system. All involved voiced their concern over the number of individuals and families that are currently in need of treatment intervention and the limited ability we have to serve them due to budget constraints. All of the panelists feel a need to increase resources to the system by any means possible. Drug Courts are a good start because local research on the projects indicates that they are successful at reducing criminal recidivism as well as improving quality of life issues for drug offenders that complete the programs.

The bus tour is just one step in re-introducing the importance of quality substance abuse treatment services to residents and key stakeholders within Mahoning County. The ADAS Network Public Relations Committee will also be actively pursuing community forums aimed at expanding the feedback the Board and Providers receive concerning the delivery of substance abuse services within the County.



Agency Directors left to right: Andrea Glass, T.A.S.C.; Larry Moliterno, Meridian Services, Inc.; Jerry Carter, NKRC; Darryl Alexander, YUMADAOP; Tom Vasvari, APMC; Judge Theresa Dellick.

Task Force
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Equally we have a number of people that I think should be given that opportunity. Um, there is a couple we're working with right now, I want to see them succeed.

But I think that's where that comes in, it's like all of them are treated the same and they're either gonna get low sentencing or they're gonna get drug court and then they're gonna have no record. Where as, I think better input from the officers making the arrest, you know at least five percent of those individuals or maybe even greater, they should just go to prison for three years or four years."

D. Schaffer: "Unfortunately, inmates needed to be released (from the Justice Center) for cost saving measures. And more releases will probably occur. Has that had any impact on the community to this point?"

Sgt. M.: "We just busted this girl for shoplifting with an ankle bracelet on. She told CCA she was going to a doctor's appointment.. took her baby with her to do the shoplifting and, and already had gotten some heroin. I don't know if she was fronted it or not. Still had some heroin on her, half a bindle. So, I go what's that on your ankle? She goes 'an ankle bracelet'. She's under house arrest. You know if you ain't in a cage, you know, there's people under house arrest, they got, so what, they're sitting in a house they can still sell drugs. If you don't have a camera on them or somebody doing surveillance. People still come to their door and sell it."

Officer Patton: "Well there's a great case, because his example is exactly that. Somebody's out because there's no room 'cause there's not that there's no room there's no money to keep the room. She is out with a child, now what's the negative impact. Buying heroin, going out to steal to cover the cost to pay for the heroin, driving while she's high with her baby. So look at the liability factor there. An automobile accident, tragic death of the child, when she's stealing what is she doing, she's teaching the child to steal, and I don't know what the age is. You can see how this is just one perspective of how it has an impact negatively in the community."

Sgt. Magnuson: "And I'll give you the town this girl's from 'cause it's a big town (sarcastic), it's a small town, Goshen. It's a small community. Her husband works in Canfield, he's a heroin addict. So these people out in these suburbs that think that they ain't got no heroin are crazy. They're crazy. It's there, it's there. And she got busted for her little scam."

Officer Patton: "Plus I would have to say, just look at the city of Youngstown in terms of the violent crime. For the last month, two months since this all started, how many homicides have we had? Four or five. So, bad people need to be in jail. When bad people aren't in jail, bad things happen on the street."

# Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendars

## MAHONING COUNTY DRUG SUMMIT IV

Friday, November 4, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
*Holiday Inn, 7410 South Ave., Boardman, OH*

About the Summit... Illegal drug use affects everyone! The Mahoning County Drug Summit IV represents the continuing efforts of numerous governmental and private institutions that address this ongoing problem in Mahoning County. The Drug Summit will also inform and educate participants on innovative and effective projects currently operating within our community. A continental breakfast, lunch and snack will be provided.

- NKRC will hold its second annual "Hope Has a Home Award Gala" on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Georgetown
- YUMADAOP Summer Day Camp, June 20, 2005 to July 29, 2005. Total cost \$150.00 per child (\$5.00 per day). Times are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact office for more information (330) 743-2772.
- YUMADAOP one on one mentoring and after school program starts September 6, 2005. For enrollment contact (330) 743-2772.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board will hold its Annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 9, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, 7410 South Avenue, Boardman, OH 44512 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please contact the ADAS Board at (330) 743-9509 or mcadasb@mahoningcountyoh.gov for further information.

## EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

The Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board is accepting nominations for the EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARDS for 2005. The ADAS Board will recognize both a community volunteer and an employee who have, through their actions, distinguished themselves in service and support of substance abuse treatment and prevention services in Mahoning County. Both awards will be presented at the ADAS Network's Annual Holiday luncheon scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2005 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Boardman Holiday Inn. Please contact the ADAS Board at (330) 743-9509 or mcadasb@mahoningcountyoh.gov for an application. The ADAS Board will use a blind review process by attempting, to the extent possible, to eliminate names or other information that will identify a nominee.

## Board Members Who Have Served with Distinction

On June 30, 2005 four of our longest tenured members retired from service on the ADAS Board due to term limits and each served in a leadership capacity during their volunteer involvement with the Board. They were very active while serving on the Board and have volunteered hundreds of hours of their personal time away from family and friends in service to the Board and residents of Mahoning County. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Judy, Rob, Roby, Bo and Doyle for their time and dedication.

(pictured left to right) **Robert W. Rupeka** served from (8/13/97) to (6/30/05) as a Board member as well as Board President for 1-1/2 of those years, **Warren "Bo" Pritchard** served from (7/3/97) to (6/30/05) as a Board member. Bo served as an officer for the majority of his tenure, **Mary "Roby" Lyden** served from (8/98) to (6/16/05) as a Board member, **Doyle O. Houston** served from (7/3/97) to (6/30/05) as a Board member as well as Board President for nearly 4 of those years, **Judith J. Forrest** served from (8/13/97) to (6/30/05) as a Board member as well as Board President for 1-1/2 years.



## Drug Court Graduations

The Mahoning County Common Pleas Drug Court presided over by Judge John Durkin, held a formal commencement ceremony on Friday, May 20th. Seven graduates of this program received their certificates of completion and had their felony charges dismissed.



The felony drug court has been operational since its inception in 1998. It has served over 500 Mahoning Valley residents and has had over 250 individuals successfully complete its rigorous curriculum by

becoming drug- and alcohol-free, law-abiding productive citizens reuniting them with their families. 7 drug-free babies have been born to participants in this program.

The court was honored in 2001 by being named by the National Drug Court

Institute as a Mentor Court; other jurisdictions have studied its achievements and have modeled their programs upon it.

This drug court has saved the Mahoning County taxpayers over \$4.3 Million Dollars in incarceration costs. Participant employments rates rose from 24% upon entrance into the program to 70% upon completion. 40% of its graduates either obtained their GED or upgraded their vocational skills. And this court has reduced the number of those who commit new crimes by 33%.

The Mahoning County Misdemeanor Drug Court held its 10th graduation ceremony on Wednesday June 10th at the Canfield County Court. Judge Scott Hunter presided. Nine graduates received their diplomas and had their pending misdemeanor charges dismissed.

This drug court began operations in



2001 and has served 189 Mahoning Valley residents and has now graduated 102. This program has saved Mahoning County taxpayers over \$500,000 since its inception, proving that the cost of treatment is better than the cost of incarceration. Only 8.2% of its graduates have ever committed a new crime compared with a national recidivism rate of 45% and a 64% new conviction rate for those who were eligible for this program by who chose not to participate.

All graduates of this program have either received their high school diplomas or GED and are either working full-time, going to school full-time, or working part-time and going to school part-time. Each have paid all their administrative fees of this program, court costs in all jurisdictions and restitution to their victims. But, most importantly, they are now drug- and alcohol-free and are now reunited with their families.

# The ADAS Network Highlights

## NEIL KENNEDY RECOVERY CLINIC

- A new slate of officers of the NKRC Board of Directors effective this month: Tom Davis, Chairman; Al Cinelli, M.D., Vice Chairman; Jan Belleville, Treasurer; Christopher Sause, Secretary.
- In addition, NKRC welcomes the following new board members: Claudia Charity, Youngstown City Schools; Tom Sanborn, Lane Life Trans; Fr. Tim O’Neil, St. Patrick’s Church, Hubbard.

## HELP HOTLINE

- Help Hotline offers new program titled WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) An education program designed for consumers that assists with personal responsibility, self-advocacy, symptom monitoring & response, education, etc.
- Help Hotline is the County’s 211 Center to access accurate information about community resources.
- Help Hotline is always in need of volunteers to answer the Information/Crisis lines. Persons interested in volunteering, please call (330) 747-2696 and request a Volunteer Information Packet.

## ADDICTION PROGRAMS OF MAHONING COUNTY

- Addiction Programs of Mahoning County in response to the need for residential treatment services for adolescent girls in Mahoning County has initiated the Adolescent Recovery Program at their Women’s Center in Youngstown. The program provides 90 day residential chemical dependency treatment to 5 girls ages 16 to 19. The girls are provided individual and group counseling, case management and educational services while in residence. Various recreational activities are available as part of the regular schedule. The girls are transported to 12 step support groups in the community in order to build a support network. If you would like more information please contact Lee Byers at (330) 743-3737 or Madeline Martin at (330) 788-7977.

## MERIDIAN SERVICES

- Meridian Services, Inc. was selected to participate in the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Clinical Trials Network (CTN). The CTN seeks to bridge the gap between cutting edge scientific findings about drug abuse and addiction and their application to clinical practice. Five community treatment providers across the country will participate in the study. Meridian Services, Inc. is the only organization in the State of Ohio selected to participate in this study and may join one of two current CTN studies. One study is looking at the correlation between diagnosed attention deficit disorder and substance abuse/ addiction and the other is looking at the prevalence of people presenting with addictions to prescription medications.
- Meridian Services, Inc. announced plans to expand the organization’s current Board of Directors. Applications will be accepted from local residents representing a wide variety of skills and experiences. Meridian Services, Inc. is a private, non-profit behavioral healthcare organization that has been providing a wide array of health and social wellness programs to the Mahoning Valley community for over thirty years. Services range from chemical dependency and mental health treatment to housing for the homeless and employee assistance programming. The Board of Directors meets monthly and serves the organization in a volunteer capacity. For further information or to request an application for board membership, contact Meridian Services, Inc. at 330-797-0070.

## MAHONING COUNTY T.A.S.C.

- The National TASC Conference is September 11th – 14th at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Dr. C. Allen Pierce, professor of criminal justice at YSU has served his final eligible term as a TASC Board member. He has been a loyal board members since 2001.

# ADAS Network Agencies

## Addiction Programs of Mahoning County, Inc.

(330) 788-7977  
e-mail: apmc2516@sbcglobal.net

## Meridian Services, Inc.

(330) 797-0070

## Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic

(330) 744-1181  
www.nkrc.org

## Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes (T.A.S.C.)

(330) 743-2192

## Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, Inc. (YUMADAOP)

(330) 743-2772  
www.yumadaop.org

## Help Hotline Crisis Center, Inc.

(330) 747-5111  
www.HelpHotline.org

## Turning Point Counseling Center

(330) 744-2991

## Travco Rehabilitation

(330) 286-0050

## The ADAS Network Newsletter Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board

20 Federal Place West  
Youngstown, OH 44503

(330) 743-9509  
www.mcadasb.com  
email: mcadasb@mahoningcountyoh.gov



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